



BIG SKY RESORT

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EXHIBIT #1
DATE 3/14/13
SB 209

March 12, 2013

Montana House of Representatives
Local Government Committee
Helena, Montana

Dear Representative:

SB 209 is good for the Big Sky community. Please support this bill.

My name is Taylor Middleton and I am the senior executive for Big Sky Resort, our community's largest economic driver, the largest collector of resort tax dollars, and the largest employer. I have lived and worked in Big Sky for over 30 years. I helped create the original Resort Tax legislation and served on the founding Big Sky Resort Tax board. I have or currently do serve on other boards including the Chamber of Commerce, Transportation District, Governor's Tourism Advisory Council, and Big Sky Western Bank.

Currently, Resort Area District tax revenues can only be spent on a year-to-year basis, equal to the collections of the previous year and unspent balances, limiting the District to short term thinking. SB 209 authorizes limited bonding authority for Resort Area Districts, enabling them to consider funding longer term projects. Our community will benefit from a longer term approach to project and infrastructure development that is impossible under the current Resort Area District statute. It is simple legislation, giving limited authority to a democratically elected board and the local voters, and creating opportunity for productive long-term expenditures of Resort Area District collections.

Please vote to support SB 209 allowing Resort Area Districts bonding authority.

Sincerely,

Taylor Middleton
General Manager
Big Sky Resort
tmiddleton@bigskyresort.com
406 995 5771

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